

Adopting Sustainable Partnerships for Innovative Research Ecosystem (ASPIRE)

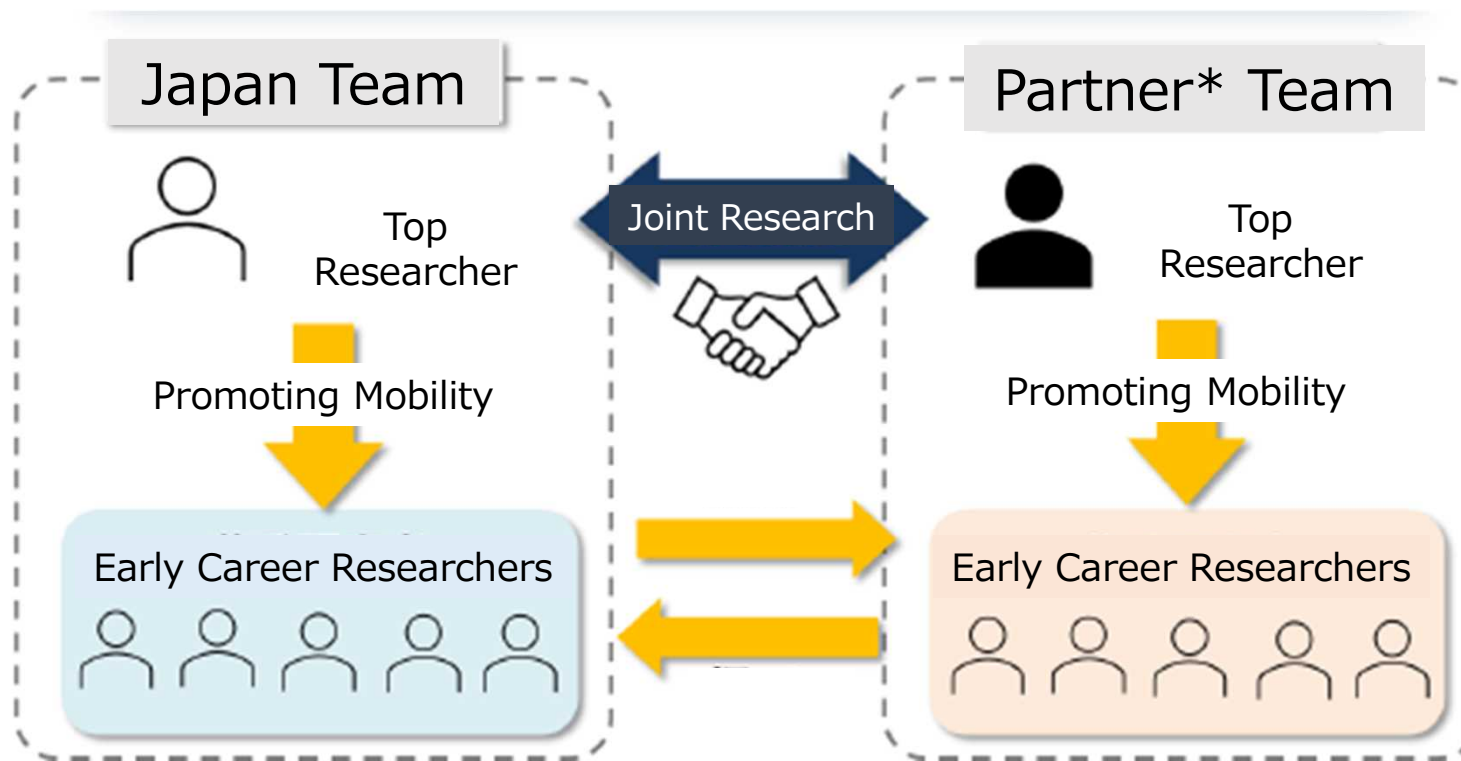
March. 2025

Research support program designed to



- Build a network among the world's top research talent.
- Promote Japan's participation in the international top research community.
- Nurture and mobilize future research leaders.





***STI advanced countries and regions**
designated by the Cabinet Office



Research

Aim to create scientific new knowledge and innovative breakthroughs

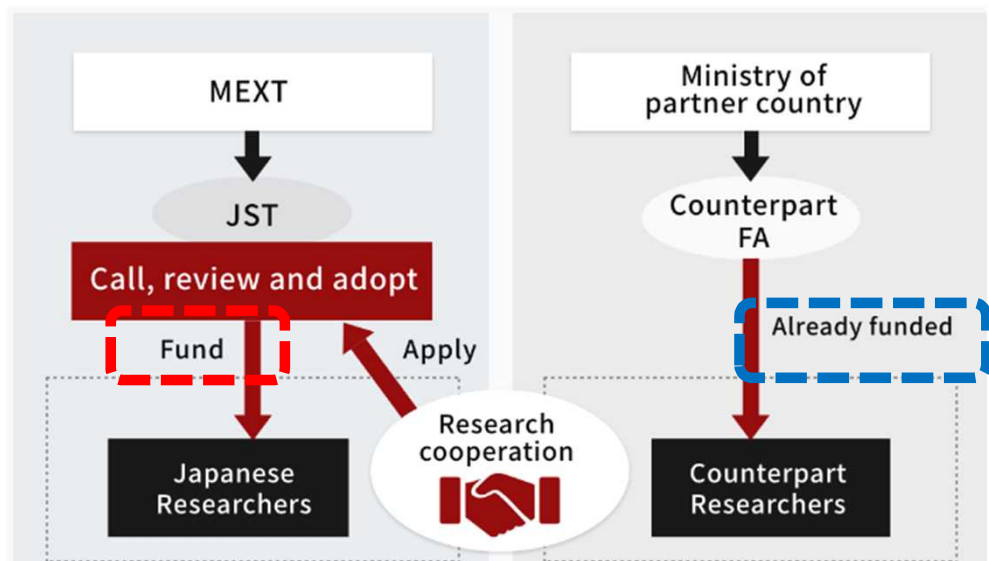
Talent Mobility

Aim to supervise early career researchers as future leaders through talent mobility activities

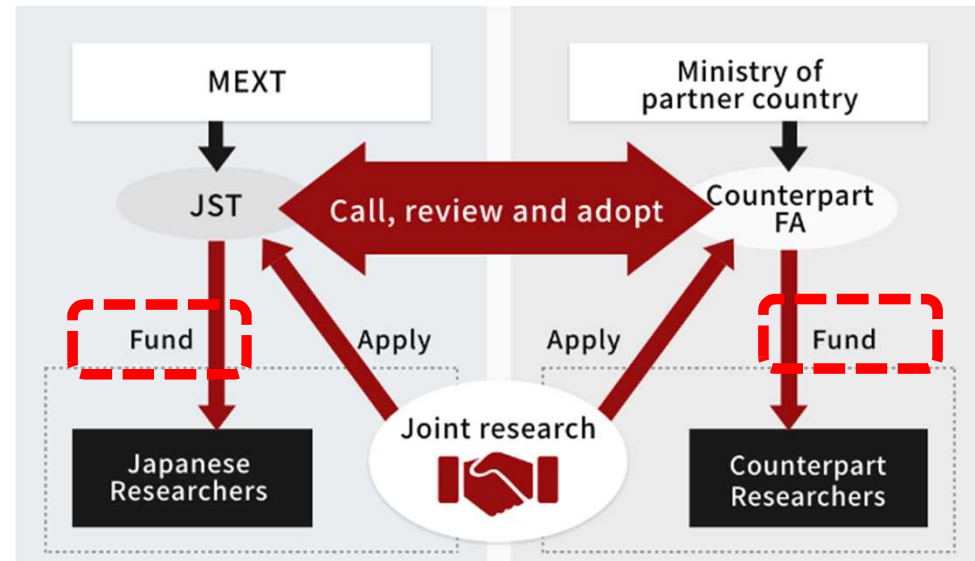
Networking

Aim to build a network between top researchers in Japan and target countries and region.

Japan-side Call



Joint Call





The 3rd Round Japan-side call

Deadline: May 12 12:00

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	ASPIRE for Top Scientists	ASPIRE for Rising Scientists
Principal Investigator	Researchers conducting internationally top-level research	Researchers who are expected to accumulate international research achievements and become top researchers in Japan in the future
Research fields	AI & Information, Biotechnology, Energy, Materials, Quantum, Semiconductors, and Telecommunications.	
Partner countries	Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, EU, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, South Korea, Spain, Sweden , Switzerland, UK, US	
Support scale for Japan-side	Around 500 million JPY (2.5 million GBP) for 5 years	Around 90 million JPY (450K GBP) for 3 years

For Japan-based applicants:

- Researchers affiliated with a Japanese research institution
- Researchers and institutions must register with [e-Rad](#) before applying

For partner PIs:

- The Partner PI needs to meet either criteria (i) or (ii):
 - (i) have existing research support from FAs in their country
 - (ii) be applying for support with a decision expected by the deadline*
- Letter of Intent (LoI)

*For more information, please see the upcoming ASPIRE call text



Essential expenses for research:

- a. Travel Expenses
- b. Personnel costs
- c. Facilities, Equipment and Consumables
- d. Miscellaneous

*Research funding (including indirect costs) is to be executed by Japanese research organizations.

Benefit for counterpart researchers

Travel, accommodation, research and personnel expenses for researchers invited from the partner country are eligible for coverage by ASPIRE.

The following points are requirements for each proposal.

1) Outgoing and invited researcher

Early career researchers (ECRs) must travel to the partner country and conduct research activities there for about one year. Researchers from the partner country must be invited and included in the Japan-side research team.

2) Restrictions on the use of budgets

70% of the total direct expenses are expected to be allocated to fostering early-career researchers. This includes building and expanding international networks for advanced research and development, promoting researcher mobility between Japan and partner countries, and providing opportunities for top-level international research collaboration.

2023 ASPIRE for Top Scientists <Materials>

Title	Interdisciplinary research of EXtreme Aspect-Ratio (EXAR) nanomaterials
Japan-side PI	SHIOMI Junichiro, Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo
Partner PI	(Germany) Jana Zaumseil, Professor, Physikalisch-Chemisches Institut, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg (Sweden) Daniel Söderberg, Professor/Head, Department of Fibre and Polymer Technology, Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) (US) KONO Junichiro, Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, William Marsh Rice University

2024 ASPIRE for Top Scientists <AI and Information>

Title	Building Mathematical Foundation for Cyber Physical Dynamical Systems: Interdisciplinary Research and Human Resource Development on Control with Prediction and Learning
Japan-side PI	EBIHARA Yoshio, Professor, Faculty of Information Science and Electrical Engineering, Kyushu University
Partner PI	(France) Dimitri Peaucelle, Senior Researcher, Decision & Optimization Department, LAAS-CNRS (Italy) Fabrizio Dabbene, Director of Research, IEIT (Istituto di Elettronica e di Ingegneria dell'Informazione e delle Telecomunicazioni), CNR (Netherlands) W. P. M. H. (Maurice) Heemels, Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Eindhoven University of Technology (Sweden) Karl Henrik Johansson, Swedish Research Council Distinguished Professor, School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, KTH Royal Institute of Technology

2024 ASPIRE for Rising Scientists <Materials>

Title	New Frontier of Photofunctional Materials Enabled by Spin Control
Japan-side PI	YANAI Nobuhiro, Professor, Graduate School of Science, The University of Tokyo
Partner PI	(Germany) Sabine Richert, Junior group leader, Institute of Physical Chemistry, University of Freiburg (Korea) Lewis Antill, Research Professor, the Institute of Quantum Biophysics (IQB), Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU) (Sweden) Karl Börjesson, Professor, Department of Chemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Gothenburg (UK) Christiane Timmel, Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Oxford (UK) Claudia Tait, Royal Society University Research Fellow, Department of Chemistry, University of Oxford (UK) Gordon Hedley, Senior Lecturer, School of Chemistry, University of Glasgow (UK) Jenny Clark, Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sheffield (UK) Sam Bayliss, Lecturer, Electronics and Nanoscale Engineering Division, University of Glasgow (UK) Stuart Mackenzie, Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Oxford

Successful Collaboration Example in the Materials Field

Joint-Lab

Building on the trust developed over the past 10 years of strategic partnership between the University of Tokyo and the Stockholm Trio (KTH, Karolinska Institute, and Stockholm University), **a joint physical laboratory has been established at KTH**, with the final push coming from ASPIRE.

In the future, young researchers from the University of Tokyo will begin to engage in activities.

The joint-lab enables active researcher mobility and seamless collaboration for members on both sides.



- Application Deadline [via the e-Rad system] :
May 12 (Mon), 2025 (noon)
- Document Review* : Late May to early August 2025
- Interview : August 2025
- Notification of Results : October 2025
- Start of Research : December 2025

※For applicants who pass the document review

We kindly request applicants to submit prior information about your upcoming proposals by **April 17 (Thu), 2025.**



Contact us

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Please visit ASPIRE website!

Q (<https://www.jst.go.jp/aspire/en/index.html>)

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